



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Spinal Cord Injury (HCBS-SCI) Waiver Renewal Summary

February 2, 2015

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing will be submitting a waiver renewal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the Home and Community-Based Services for persons with a Spinal Cord Injury (HCBS-SCI) waiver. Home and Community-Based Services waivers provide an alternative to the comprehensive long-term care services delivered in institutional settings by waiving certain Medicaid provisions and allowing these services to be delivered in community settings.

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is required by CMS to either renew a waiver after five years or allow the waiver to expire. The Department plans to renew HCBS-SCI. The HCBS-SCI Waiver renewal incorporates changes that were included in previous waiver amendments that have been submitted and are currently awaiting approval. In addition, the HCBS-SCI Waiver renewal includes the following new changes:

- Increases the unduplicated client count for the waiver from 67 to 120 clients.
- Adds the ability for individual chiropractors, acupuncturists, and massages therapists to enroll as alternative therapy providers.
- Changes the limits on amount, frequency or duration of alternative therapy services. Previously the amount of service limits were higher in the client's initial 90 days of receiving services. The renewal sets the amount of service limits for an entire year without a specific limit of services for any specific period of time. The total limit of yearly services will remain the same.
- Changes to the IHSS service delivery option including: allowing IHSS to be provided in the community, clarifying that the client or the client's authorized representative is responsible for directing their care, including scheduling, managing, and supervising attendants; allowing clients or the client's authorized representative to work with the IHSS agency to determine the amount of oversight by a licensed health care professional; allowing willing and able IHSS agencies to provide support to clients without authorized representatives to participate in IHSS; adding a spouse as an eligible family member who may act as an attendant providing IHSS; and changes the limits for relative reimbursement for personal care from 444 units per year to 40 hours per week.
- Includes a rate increase for Chiropractic Care.
- Updates the Quality Improvement Strategy (QIS) sections to multiple appendices throughout the waiver.

Our mission is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.
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